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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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## FOREIGN SUBSTANCE IN CHEWING TOBACCO.

COURT DECIDES THAT MANUFACTURER IS NOT LIABLE FOR POISONING CAUSED BY A SUBSTANCE ACCIDENTALLY INTRODUCED.

The courts have held that manufacturers of drugs and foodstuffs are liable to consumers who purchase from dealers for injury resulting from negligence in allowing foreign substances to be introduced into the drugs or foodstuffs during the manufacturing or packing processes. (Public Health Reports Oct. 15, 1915, p. 3095.)

The Supreme Court of Tennessee has decided that this rule is not applicable to chewing tobacco, on the ground that tobacco is not a food. (See p. 269 of this issue of the Public Health Reports.)

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## MENTAL MANIFESTATIONS OF PELLAGRA.

By W. F. LORENZ, Special Expert, United States Public Health Service.

The occurrence of mental disturbances among pellagrins has been variously estimated in Italy, according to Marie,<sup>1</sup> at from 4 to 10 per cent, while in the United States the frequency of insanity among pellagrins has been placed by Grimm,<sup>2</sup> at 7.5 per cent. If the very mild types of aberration are included, it is probable that even a greater number show mental disturbances, a point very recently brought out by Singer,<sup>3</sup> who found that 52 of 130 unselected cases showed mental symptoms.

The fact that mental disturbances are so frequently associated with pellagra—an association that has been noted ever since the recognition of the disease—warrants investigation in this particular field. A number of such investigations have been made. Curiously divergent views and observations have been reported. In the present study it was thought advisable to restrict the inquiry to certain lines. These are indicated in the following questions, which were held in

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<sup>1</sup> Marie, Pellagra; Trans. by Lavinder and Babcock. The State Co., publishers, Columbia, S. C., 1910.

<sup>2</sup> Grimm, Public Health Report, U. S. Public Health Service, Mar. 7, 1913.

<sup>3</sup> Singer, H. Douglas, Mental and Nervous Disorders Associated with Pellagra. *Archives of Internal Medicine*, January, 1915, p. 121.